

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 301) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### AUTHORIZING LIMITED STILL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 302, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 302) authorizing limited still photography of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and authorizing the release of preexisting photographs of the Senate Chamber and Senate wing of the United States Capitol for a book on the history of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 302) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 25; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of Proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Palk nomination, with the time until the cloture vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator FRANKEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

#### REMEMBERING PAUL WELLSTONE

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life of my friend, Senator Paul Wellstone.

Paul led a lot of fights in the Senate on behalf of working families and those without a voice. He didn't back down even when a fight seemed unwinnable. He told voters exactly what he believed even when it wasn't popular. It was by taking such positions that Minnesotans, whether they agreed with him or not, always knew where he stood.

In the final days of the 2002 campaign, he told Minnesotans:

I don't represent the big oil companies, I don't represent the big pharmaceutical companies . . . they already have great representation in Washington. It's the rest of the people that need it. I represent the people of Minnesota.

But Paul also knew full well that standing up to powerful interests could have steep political costs. His career in the Senate was bookended by votes on going to war in Iraq. Both of his votes were unpopular, but Paul stood on principle, not on politics. His maiden speech, the first speech he gave as a Senator, was in opposition to the first Gulf war, and one of the last Senate votes he cast was against the second war in Iraq.

He was facing a tough reelection challenge at the time of his vote, and he knew it might cost him his seat, and he told friends so. But to have voted otherwise, he said, would have violated the principles that guided his career. So he voted his conscience and put political considerations aside, just as he did throughout his time in public office.

Then, just 11 days before election day, his plane went down, taking not only Paul and Sheila, his wife, but their daughter Marcia, campaign staffers Tom Lopic, Mary McEvoy, and Will McLaughlin, as well as pilots Richard Conry and Michael Guess.

Since coming to the Senate, I have learned how well regarded Paul was around the Capitol, not only by Senators from both sides of the aisle but also by Capitol police officers, whom he knew by name, and the elevator operators, for whom he always made time.

Paul's legislative work continues to make a profound difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Among his accomplishments are his pioneering efforts, along with Republican Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico, on mental health parity, which ensures that copays and deductibles for addiction and mental health services are on par with payments for other medical serv-

ices. The law was jointly named for Paul and Senator Domenici, and it passed in late 2008, 6 years after Paul's death.

After I was seated in 2009, one of the first things I did was to work with Paul's son David on getting the final rules written to implement Wellstone-Domenici. That work inspired me to later push for investments in school mental health services, to help students and their families who need those services.

Paul also led the David-and-Goliath effort to stop bankruptcy legislation that favored big banks and credit card companies over working families. Despite going up against a wide range of special interests with huge lobbying power and lots of money, he successfully held off passage of the bill during his lifetime.

He also took on special interests when he stood against oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He believed, like I do, that the long-term consequences of endangering the home of indigenous people and a pristine habitat for wildlife far outweighed "a short-term speculative supply of oil that will not . . . help consumers." Because of Paul and others in the Senate, the Wildlife Refuge, at least for now, remains pristine.

Paul also had an amazing and special relationship with Sheila, who became an important partner in his Senate work. She became a leading advocate for survivors of domestic violence, spending years raising awareness about the issue and the need to address its causes. Former Senator and Vice President Joe Biden said Sheila deserves as much credit as any lawmaker for passage of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. Since the law's enactment, incidents of domestic violence have been reduced significantly. It was a landmark achievement.

My constituents remember Paul fondly. They leave notes and mementos for him at the quiet memorial site honoring him just off of Highway 53, near Eveleth, MN. They leave them for his wife Sheila, too, and for the others who died with them exactly 15 years ago tomorrow, when their plane tragically crashed just miles from the Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport.

I have been to the memorial site, and I have seen how deeply and personally Paul touched people in Minnesota and across the country. He inspired them not only as a U.S. Senator for 12 years but also as a Carleton College professor who encouraged a generation of students to take action in their communities. He did so as a fiery organizer who stood up for Minnesota farmers and for working families and insisted on giving them a voice and a seat at the table. He never lost the tenacious spirit that led him to be a collegiate wrestling champion—he is in the college wrestling hall of fame—and he brought that same approach to standing up for Minnesotans. He stood strong against injustice, even when it

twice meant being arrested. It wasn't because he wanted to break the law, but because he thought it was necessary to bring about change for the better.

He also had a special way of connecting with people. Former Senator Tom Harkin said at a memorial service for Paul that he "made a miner up in the Iron Range know he was as important . . . as the president of the United States." That is how Paul voted in the Senate, too, putting ordinary Minnesotans ahead of politics, money, and influence.

The last time I saw Paul was at a 2002 campaign event in St. Paul, just weeks before he died. He was locked in a bitter struggle for reelection. Despite being in a grueling fight for his political life, the first thing he said to me was, "How's your mom?" That was Paul.

I had just come from my mom's nursing home in Minneapolis, where she had a picture of Paul on her wall that said: "Phoebe, keep fighting." She wasn't doing very well. I told Paul that she had dementia—some sporadic dementia—and that day I couldn't have a conversation with her. He put his hand on my shoulder and said: "Touch means so much. Touch means so much."

The next day, I went to the nursing home, and I took my mom out into the garden, in a wheelchair. She was having a bad day again, but I put my arm around her as we sat. It was a beautiful day. I don't know if it meant anything to her, but it sure meant everything to me.

Paul's life and his work meant a lot to me too. His examples as a tireless, passionate champion for working families, for veterans, for farmers, and for those who simply needed a voice have inspired my own time in the Senate. I keep Paul's picture and his Senate name plate in my office behind me as a reminder at my desk every day. Every day I serve, I think back to Paul's words. This is what Paul said:

Politics is not about power. Politics is not about money. Politics is not about winning for the sake of winning. Politics is about the improvement of people's lives.

While Paul isn't here with us today, his legacy lives on in so many ways. It lives on in the generations of students and activists he trained and inspired in Minnesota. It lives on in the policies he fought for here in the Senate, for access to mental health care, for a clean environment, and for making sure that working families get a fair shot. It lives on in the countless lives that he touched, like mine and my mom's.

Paul made us all better, and I hope his legacy will continue to inspire us well into the future.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:28 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

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#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LEONARD WOLFSON, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE ERIKA LIZABETH MORITSUGU.

##### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WILLIAM BEACH, OF KANSAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ERICA LYNN GROSHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

TARA SWEENEY, OF ALASKA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE KEVIN K. WASHBURN, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROBERT M. WEAVER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE YVETTE ROUBIDEAUX, TERM EXPIRED.